

Amdt. Dated May 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 26, 2004

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed February 26, 2004 (Paper No. 9). Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 14-23 are now pending in the application, with Claim 14 being the independent claim. Claim 14 has been amended, and Claims 1-13 and 24-36 have been canceled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,886,634 (Muhme). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 14 relates to a data processing system adapted to manage the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network. The data processing system includes a storefront database having secure area inventory information stored therein, and a processor in communication with a memory that stores program instructions. The program instructions allow the processor to receive secure area part reception and issuing information, and to update the secure area inventory information in the storefront database using, as appropriate, the reception and issuing information. Independent Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, that the processor is in operable communication with the storefront database, and configured to selectively communicate with a customer client and a supplier client via the computer network.

Muhme relates to a system and method for authorizing removal of one or more items from a facility. The system includes a plurality of RFID tags, one or more RFID readers, and a RFID tag database. The RFID tags are associated with an item and a person. The RFID reader reads the RFID tags and, if a proper association exists between the tagged item(s) and person, based on data stored in the RFID tag database, then item removal is allowed.

It is thus submitted that Muhme fails to disclose, or even remotely suggest, at least the above-noted feature of independent Claim 14. Namely, Muhme fails to disclose or

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suggest at least a processor in operable communication with the storefront database, and configured to selectively communicate with a customer client and a supplier client via the computer network.

Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is respectfully solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Muhme and U.S. Patent No. 6,487,479 (Nelson), and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Muhme, Nelson, and U.S. Patent No. 6,220,509 (Byford). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nelson relates to a system and method for accessing aircraft-related component repair orders, and Byford relates to a system for tracing parcels. Both of these patents have been reviewed, and Applicant submits that neither make up for at least the above-noted deficiency of Muhme with respect to independent Claim 14. Namely, neither of these citations discloses a processor in operable communication with the storefront database, and configured to selectively communicate with a customer client and a supplier client via the computer network.

Nonetheless, even assuming *arguendo* that either or both of these citations, or any other citation of record for that matter, did disclose this feature, there exists no motivation in any of the citations for modifying the system of Muhme to include such a feature.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections is requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claim 14 is patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claim and because each recite features which are

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patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

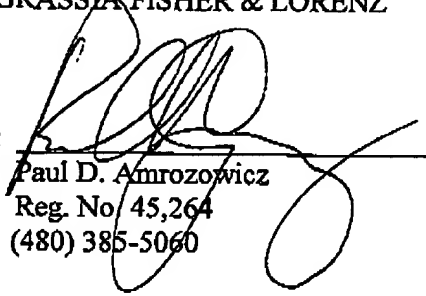
If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: May 21, 2004

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